

# Australian Garden HISTORY

Vol. 17 No. 2 September/October 2005



*A Gentleman's Park*  
to be visited at the Perth Conference



AUSTRALIAN  
GARDEN  
HISTORY  
SOCIETY

*Silver Anniversary*

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The Australian Garden History Society is the leader in concern for and conservation of significant cultural landscapes and historic gardens through committed, relevant and sustainable action.

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Publication  
Australian Garden History, the official journal of the Australian Garden History Society, is published five times a year.

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Subscriptions (GST Inclusive)  
For 1 year

Single	\$55
Family	\$75
Corporate	\$200
Youth	\$20
(under 25 years of age)	
Non-profit organisations	\$75

Advertising Rates  
1/8 page \$132  
(2+ issues \$121 each)  
1/4 page \$220  
(2+ issues \$198 each)  
1/2 page \$330  
(2+ issues \$275 each)  
Full page \$550  
(2+ issues \$495 each)  
Inserts \$440  
for Australia-wide mailing  
Pro-rata for state-wide mailing

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Printing  
New Litho 8809 2500  
ISSN 1033-3673

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Cover: View from Woodbridge across to pastures and vineyards on northern river flats, 2005. Photo: Carol Mansfield

# RESEARCH & Researchers

## CAN ANYONE HELP?

Simon Gregg, the Exhibitions Curator at the City Museum, Old Treasury in Melbourne, has asked whether any AGHS members might have objects or items such as gardening tools, ornaments, interesting photographs which they would be willing to lend for a forthcoming exhibition.

His next exhibition *Gardens of Earthly Delight* will run from November 2005 until February 2006. It will trace the development of Melbourne's parks and gardens and examine how they have contributed to making Melbourne the most 'liveable city in the world'.

The exhibition aims to place Melbourne's major gardens in an historical and social

context by illustrating their uses through the ages, and by different cultures. While focussing on several key public gardens such as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Treasury and Fitzroy Gardens, Flagstaff Gardens and Carlton Gardens, it will also feature smaller, less-known gardens like George Coppin's Cremorne Gardens in Richmond and look at some of the personalities behind the evolution of Melbourne's gardens – Charles La Trobe, Ferdinand von Mueller, William Guilfoyle and Rupert Hamer. The contemporary context will be represented through the inclusion of the RBG Cranbourne and Birrarung Marr.

Contact Simon Gregg on (03) 9651 6512 or sgregg@citymuseum.org.au

## Julie Keegan Tours

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or

Book on the trip and benefit the Society

Julie Keegan has most generously set aside 25 places on this tour for AGHS members and your booking will benefit the Society.

In addition Julie is offering a free place on the tour based on single room occupation and to include return airfares from Melbourne or Sydney to Christchurch.

## A Raffle

to determine the winner of the free place will be launched at the AGHS Conference in Perth in October 2005 & will be drawn on 21 March 2006. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit AGHS.

This Special N.Z. Garden Tour will visit houses & gardens from Christchurch to Blenheim

See the flyer in this journal for more details

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# A Gentleman's Park

BY CAROL MANSFIELD



It was Captain James Stirling, Western Australia's founding governor who, in 1829, first selected the estate of 400 acres (1620 hectares) on the banks of the Swan River, about 5 miles (13km) upstream from Perth. Having led a survey party upriver in 1827, Stirling may well have remembered this well-watered land between the Swan and Helena Rivers.

Both Woodbridge and Guildford were named by Stirling for his wife Ellen's family property, 'Woodbridge', whose garden also stretched down to the river at Guildford in the English county of Surrey.

Nearly 150 years later it is still possible to visualise the

gentleman's park at a turn of the river commanding a view along two extensive reaches [with] the land in front of it being all meadow land, very beautifully studded with forest trees.<sup>1</sup>

Some of the ancient forest trees remain in the form of flooded gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*), still 'studding' the river flats below the grand Victorian mansion and still a very peaceful picture.

By 1831 Stirling had a 'little cottage ornée' on the property which he and his family used as

a country retreat.<sup>2</sup> When Stirling left the infant colony in 1839 Woodbridge was leased until 273 acres (110 hectares) of the estate was purchased by Charles Harper in 1883.

## A man of talent

Harper was born in Toodyay, Western Australia, in 1842, his father being a barrister who emigrated and later trained as an Anglican minister. It is said that the young Charles left home at the age of 16 to make his way in the world. This he accomplished in no small measure becoming 'explorer, pastoralist, pearler, agriculturalist, inventor, educationist, newspaper proprietor and member of parliament'.<sup>3</sup> Harper showed an early interest in natural history, supplying botanical specimens to Baron von Mueller, as well as providing hospitality to Ellis Rowan when she was painting Western Australian wildflowers.

Charles Harper was elected to the Legislative Council in 1879, marrying and settling in Guildford in the same year. He also purchased the daily newspaper *The West Australian* that year and founded the weekly *Western Mail* six years later, intending it to serve the rural community. At the same time, and even before the Woodbridge house was completed in 1885, he was developing orchards and vineyards on both sides of the river.

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Thomas Price,  
nurseryman and partner in  
Woodbridge Nurseries,  
aged 80 years, c. 1945.  
Photo: Courtesy Carol Monsfield

## Thomas Price

The Woodbridge orchards were rapidly acquiring a reputation for excellence when, shortly after the turn of the century, experienced nurseryman Thomas Price arrived in the colony seeking work. At 21 years of age, Price had spent ten years in the horticultural industry, having been employed by both James Veitch, and James Laing, nurserymen of London.

Price was originally employed as gardener at Woodbridge but by the mid 1890s, when the economic future of the colony appeared more assured, Harper invited him to become a partner in the business, trading as C. Harper and T. Price at 'Woodbridge Nurseries'.

As an active parliamentarian holding a number of public positions Harper was held in high esteem in the colony. Price, too, quickly established a reputation for fair and conscientious dealing, travelling several hundred miles on horseback each year in order to visit clients in the developing orchards of the cooler south-west. In 1896, during a visit to the estate, members of the Agricultural Bureau were impressed by

a large and well-appointed orchard . . . in full bearing . . . From the broad verandahs of Woodbridge the visitors had a view of the verdant fruit trees, the Swan River and the sparkling cascade of the artesian bore.<sup>5</sup>

A nursery catalogue of this time shows the main emphasis on fruit trees and vines, with an interesting collection of roses. As many as 62 varieties of apples are listed, as well as numerous vines, citrus and stone fruit. This was an era of agricultural experimentation in Western Australia, on which Charles Harper thrived and which gave him the opportunity, through his newspapers, to discuss aspects of the fruit growing industry. When, in 1899, Price left Woodbridge to run the now well-known Illawarra orchard in the hills at Karragullen, Harper went into partnership with his eldest son, Walter, as the 'Woodbridge Nursery Co. Ltd'.

## Ferndale

In 1906, ever on the alert to spot a business opportunity which would further the agricultural industry, Harper opened what might be described as a satellite orchard nursery on a large, farming property called Ferndale at the tiny hamlet of Balingup, in the

south-west of the state. His intention, with two partners, was to develop an experimental orchard of mixed fruit trees, with a view to subdividing the land at a later date.

The nursery at Ferndale was established by Albert Haines, a young man who was already employed by Harper at Woodbridge. He was sent down to prepare the land for 20,000 apple and pear stocks from Victoria, which were budded preparatory to being sold as two-year old trees. Walter Harper closed the Ferndale nursery in 1914, Haines having left the previous year to develop his own property. The 'Woodbridge Nursery Co. Ltd' closed in 1915 and Ferndale was subdivided and sold in 1920.

## Neglect & redemption

After Charles Harper's death in 1912 his wife and daughters continued to live at Woodbridge until, in 1921, the house was leased for use as the Woodbridge House Preparatory School. Although the gardens suffered little change then, and the farm continued to operate, this signalled a long period of decline and neglect. From 1942 until 1964 the house became the Guildford Women's Home; it was then used as a high school annexe until 1968, with the demolition of the house even being contemplated. Eventually the property was vested in the National Trust and after very extensive repairs and restoration was opened to the public in 1970.

Woodbridge House was intended as a family home (Harper and his wife had 10 children) and is as impressive today as when it was described in 1884 as 'the handsomest private residence in the Colony'<sup>6</sup> although one could wish for more expansive grounds than the 1.25 acres (0.54 hectare) now remaining.

## The garden today

The main entry, terminating in a carriage circle, has been in continual use since the house was built, and one tall palm tree marking the original entrance also survives. An ancient olive can be found near the jetty, but this has evidently been severely 'controlled' recently. The avenue of spotted gums (*Eucalyptus maculata*) probably dates from the 1960s where it seems to have replaced an earlier line of trees. The replanted gardens are modest, as was always the intention, with the original area of ornamentals, and the artesian bore to the west of the house having been lost to the property by the new boundary fence.

Although suburbia has overtaken most of James Stirling's 'gentleman's park' the vistas across the river today still provide glimpses of the vineyards which his far-sighted successor, Charles Harper, envisaged over 100 years ago.

*Carol Mansfield is a local historian with a passion for plants and gardens. She lives in the Darling Range outside Perth.*

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Eric T. Price, *Thomas Price of Illawarra: Western Australian Pioneer Nurseryman and Fruit Grower*, Adelaide, 1985.



Woodbridge House.  
Photo: Courtesy Carol Mansfield

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> An opinion expressed in 1822 by a visitor to the Colony, quoted in D.C. Cowan 'The Building of Woodbridge', in *Early Days, The Journal and Proceedings of the Western Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 1, pt 8 (1930)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

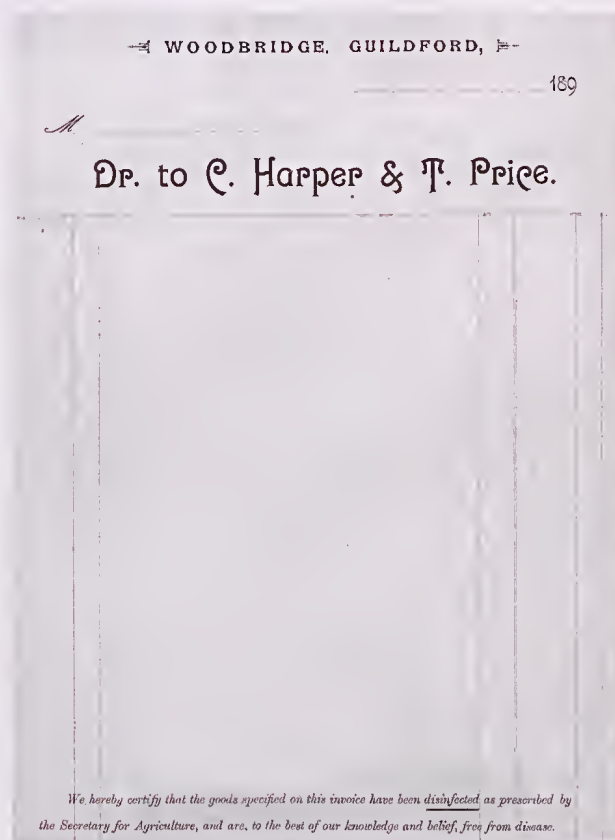
<sup>3</sup> F.R. Mercer, *The Life of Charles Harper of Woodbridge*, Perth 1958, p. iii.

<sup>4</sup> Western Australia. Bureau of Agriculture, *The West Australian Settler's Guide and Farmer's Handbook*, Part I, Perth, 1897, p. 160 (Harper had put down one of the first artesian bores in the colony.)

<sup>5</sup> Charles Harper had previously opened a small school at Woodbridge in 1896, which was later transferred to a separate building, eventually becoming Guildford Grammar School.

<sup>6</sup> Caption to a painting of Woodbridge by F.W. Sears, reproduced in *The Inquirer*, 29 October 1884, in *Conservation Plan*.

1908 catalogue cover and letterhead Woodbridge Nurseries.  
Courtesy: John Viska



# International Auction of the Wollemi Pine

BY JAN GLUSKIE



The seed cone of the Wollemi Pine.

A major event in horticultural and botanical history will take place at 3pm on 23 October 2005 when Sothebys will auction the first release of the Wollemi Pine in a 'Collector's Edition' sale to take place in front of Rathborne Lodge, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

There will be approximately 200 trees (2.5m tall) for auction, the first generation pines propagated from the wild population and they will be sold in lots of a single tree, or in groups of possibly up to a maximum of 6 trees.

The trees have been produced from seeds, cuttings and tissue culture from the wild stands. They are fast-growing, respond well to light, favour acid soils and are averaging growth of about half a metre in height each year. They grow well in pots under a variety of conditions. Of the Genus *Araucaria* they are related to the Bunya Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*), the Monkey Puzzle Tree (*Araucaria araucana*), the Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) and the Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*).

The trees will be on display on the Lawn immediately in front of the Woolloomooloo Gate from October 14 until the day of the auction and interpretative information will be provided on site by volunteer guides during that time. The trees will be displayed to simulate the canyons of trees in the wild. Some revenue from sales will return to the Botanic Gardens Trust to assist further conservation work for the Wollemi Pine and other endangered species.

There will be two further releases for sale in April 2006:

- The 'Limited Edition' – comprising approximately 10,000 trees about 1.5m in height. The price of these plants is yet to be

determined and they will be sold through selected nurseries.

- The 'Conservation Collection' – a large number of trees in smaller pots will be sold through selected nurseries (currently negotiating for the rights) around Australia and overseas. These pines will be suitable for keeping in pots as indoor plants, balcony plants or for planting out in the garden. The price of these plants has not yet been released but it should be affordable by Australians 'at large'.

These prehistoric trees (*Wollemia nobilis*) were thought to have been extinct for millions of years until two small stands were discovered in 1994 in the Wollemi National Park 150 km north-west of Sydney. It was 'the botanical find of the century' – 38 adult pines growing on wet ledges in a deep, isolated rainforest gorge. The age of the trees is unknown though the older pines have multiple trunks of different ages and in many specimens the original trunk is long gone. Scientists estimate that some of these trees may be more than 1000 years old. Genetic tests cannot detect any differences in the 38 trees – it is as if they are all the same plant. That a living species with such a limited gene pool has survived for hundreds of millions of years is also remarkable but it is thought that this plant's ability to 'coppice' may be the secret of its survival.

James Woodford records the fascinating story of this remarkable tree in *The Wollemi Pine* published in 2000 by Text Publishing [ISBN 1 876485 74 4]

*Jan Gluskie compiled this report from material supplied by the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. A past Chairman of the Sydney and Northern New South Wales Branch of AGHS, Jan served on the NMC and convened two National Conferences.*

# Strathfieldsaye

## A HOMESTEAD GARDEN

BY SUSAN THOMPSON



Left:  
Flower of *Erythrina x bidwillii*  
'Blakei'.  
Photo: Nina Crone



Middle:  
Hartwicke's Hut.  
Photo: Austroline Landscape Trust

Strathfieldsaye homestead is historically significant as possibly the oldest continuously inhabited house in Gippsland. The farm remains essentially as it was in 1879, and the house remains as the Disher family left it after 110 years of occupation.

The landscape and garden are aesthetically and historically significant as evidence of mature exotic plantings at a remote pastoral station. The squared layout of the garden reflects the utilitarian needs of early settlement in contrast to later, more ornamental styles. This form is unusually intact, and rare in Eastern Victoria. The driveway plantings mark the entrance to the property and the species are typical of the nineteenth century. The shoreline plantings play a strong role in the views of the lake. The trees in the paddock are associated with closer cultivation and delineate boundary lines in these areas.

The remnant pear orchard trees at Hartwicke's Hut are of scientific (horticultural) significance as a nineteenth century cultivar. They are evidence of more extensive orchards planted by selectors in this area during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Bottom:  
Entrance Strathfieldsaye  
homestead garden 2005.  
Photo: Nina Crone

*Situated at Perry Bridge via Stratford, between Sale and Bairnsdale in Central Gippsland, Victoria, Strathfieldsaye Estate (Latitude 38°S and Longitude 147.10°E) consists of 1900 hectares on a gently undulating plain running down to the shore of Lake Wellington. The average temperature for January is 25.2°C maximum and 12.7°C minimum while that for July is 13.7°C maximum and 3.2°C minimum. Average annual rainfall amounts to 611.1mm. The soil is grey sandy loam with clay subsoil.*

Victorian Heritage Register  
H 262





**Above left:**  
Ellis Stones's photo c. 1936  
showing garden with Lake  
Wellington in the distance.  
*University of Melbourne Archives*



**Above right:**  
Dr Clive Disher  
*Photo: Australian Landscape Trust*

**Opposite top:**  
1892 – earliest plan of the  
homestead and garden.  
*University of Melbourne Archives*

**Opposite bottom:**  
Sir Kingsley Norris and  
Dr Clive Disher at  
Strathfieldsaye c. 1939.  
*Photo: Euan Littlejohn  
University of Melbourne Archives*

## Early history to 1868

The Lake Wellington and Strathfieldsaye regions were occupied by the Kurnai people of Gippsland and scar trees and Aboriginal artifacts are found on the estate. An early explorer W.A. Brodribb, riding out from Port Albert in 1841, noted that the Kurnai had burnt the grass beside Lake Wellington in late summer.<sup>1</sup>

The European settlement of the 80,000 acre Strathfieldsaye run dates from 1842 when William O'Dell Raymond brought 8,000 sheep south from drought-stricken New South Wales, following the Tambo River into Gippsland. He had been impressed by Angus McMillan's account of 'grass up to our stirrup-irons as we rode along, and absolutely swarming with wild ducks, swans and pelicans . . .' and he assumed squatting rights.

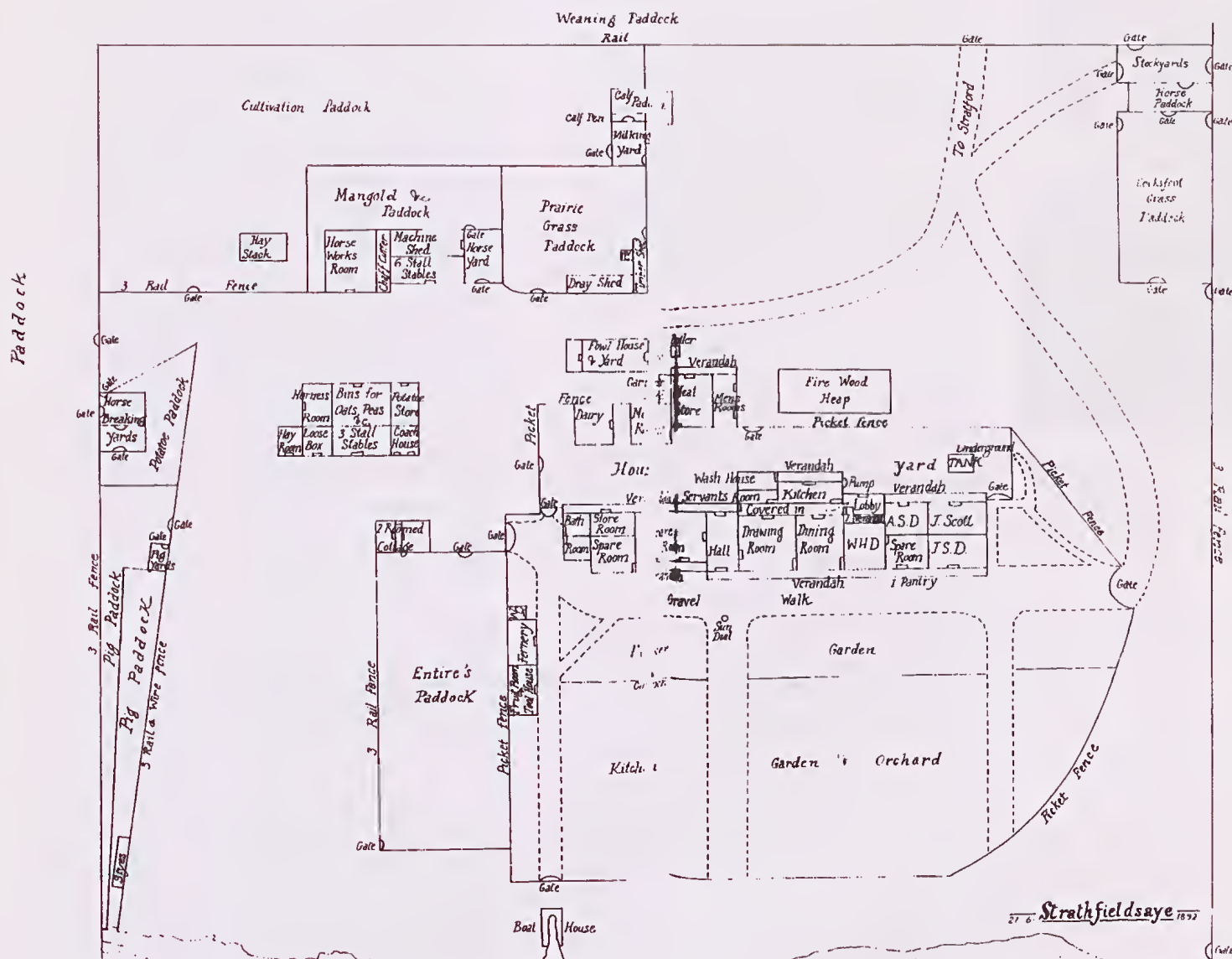
By 1853 his 'improvements' as listed by C.J. Tyers, the Commissioner for Crown Lands, were a weatherboard (red gum cut by hand in sawpits on the property) cottage, kitchen, men's huts, stables, coach house, gardens and stockyards. The following year Raymond obtained pre-emptive right to the land, naming it Strathfieldsaye after the Duke of Wellington's estate in England in recognition of the fact that his father had served under the Iron Duke at Waterloo.

European incursion occasioned resistance from the Kurnai and a number of massacres occurred leading Raymond to acquire the cannon salvaged from the SS *Clonmel* which had sunk near Port Albert in 1841, and to install it in the garden although it is thought never to have been fired. In December 1856 Raymond sold the property to Lemuel Bolden and his nephew Charles and selection sub-division and diverse land use began.

In 1863 the Reverend F. A. Hagenauer established a Gippsland mission station on the run at Ramahyuck to assist the Kurnai who were suffering from disease and scarcity of food. The Barton family arrived as selectors in 1866 to establish hop gardens on the lake shore, and the next year the remaining freehold and leasehold was sold to W.B. Cunninghame. Within two years a further sale brought the first members of the Disher family to the property.

## The Disher years (1869-1976)

William Henderson Disher and his brother Samuel bought Strathfieldsaye. The notice of sale had listed the garden as a feature of the property and by November 1869 William's son John described how they were planting plums, peaches, pears, potatoes, melons and onions and collecting home manure for the garden.



By 1873 the partnership between the Disher brothers had dissolved and W.H. Disher became the sole owner. He was responsible for the renovations and extensions to the homestead that established its character with 'timber, weatherboard, corrugated iron and handmade bricks in a graceful Colonial Vernacular style, mostly enhanced by the encircling verandah and Regency derived joinery.'<sup>2</sup>

W.H. Disher died in 1915 at the age of 93. His son John continued to live at Strathfieldsaye until his death in 1931. Henry Disher, the other son, died in 1944 leaving Clive as owner of the property, but it was not until after World War II that Dr Clive Disher decided to retire and live permanently at Strathfieldsaye.





Above:  
Central axial (north-south)  
path and stone steps 1978.  
Photo: M. Sullivan  
University of Melbourne Archives

Below: Sundial  
University of Melbourne Archives

## In trust

On Dr Disher's death in 1976 the property was left to the University of Melbourne as the Strathfieldsaye Institute of Teaching and Research into Agriculture and Allied Sciences to 'carry out research into the science of agriculture and allied sciences, and to educate, instruct, advise and assist those whose lives lie or will lie, in the practice of such sciences.'

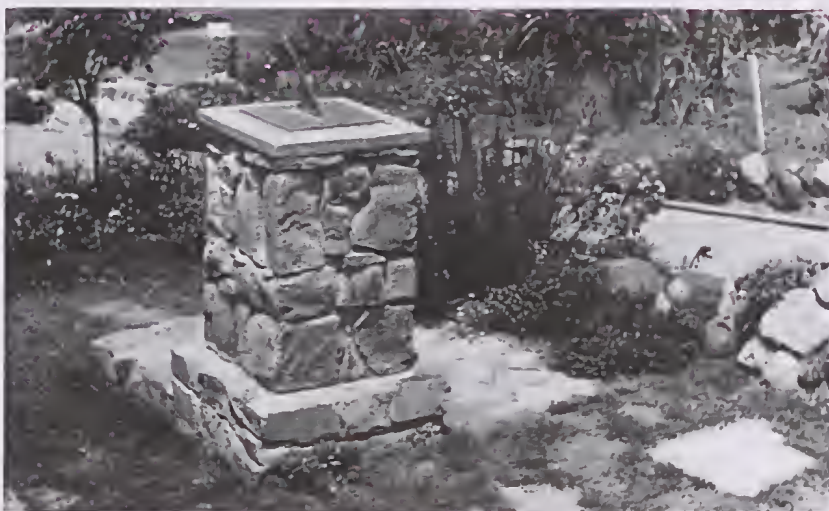
The property remained in the hands of the University of Melbourne until, in 2003, it was transferred by the Supreme Court to the Australian Landscape Trust (ALT), a non-profit organization set up with the assistance of the Ian Potter Foundation in 1996.

The Strathfieldsaye Estate Garden Committee was formed late in 2003 and the ALT commissioned Susan Thompson to prepare the *Conservation Report for the Homestead Gardens at Strathfieldsaye Estate*. This was completed in February 2005.

## The garden

In May 1882 a reporter from the *Gippsland Mercury* described the garden:

... On a gentle slope to the shore of the lake is arranged a most perfect flower garden, cultivated with all the care of one who studies the beauties of nature and at the present time the whole is a mass of variegated blooms. At a little distance are numerous fruit trees laden with their luxurious products and immediately in the centre is seen a colossal pillar of shrubbery



which on closer inspection proves to be the remains of a red gum covered with English ivy...<sup>3</sup>

The first plan available of the house and the surrounding area is that of 1892. It shows the extensions to the house and, for the first time, the layout of the garden. A substantial Kitchen Garden and Orchard dominate the area, with flower gardens beside the main gravel walkway to the south of the verandah. Picket fences form the boundaries of the garden, curving gracefully from the main gate towards the bottom of the Kitchen Garden and Orchard.

The positions of the Cannon and Sundial are marked, and the buildings on the west side are noted as the Fruit Room and Tool House, the Fernery and the WC. There are three main axial paths traversing the garden from north to south.

## Ellis Stones & Edna Walling

When Dr Clive Disher came to live permanently at Strathfieldsaye the garden was made available for all kinds of community activities and he took great interest in the garden. In 1945 he commissioned Ellis Stones to redesign a large part of it. This was early in the now well-known landscape designer's career but he always described the 'sensitively placed' steps on the main axial path leading to the vegetable or kitchen garden as 'a personal favourite'.

The station diaries recorded the day the rocks were delivered and the archival records show Ellis's list of suggested plants and a pencil sketch of part of the garden. It is here one sees the influence of his mentor Edna Walling, and other archival material shows a sketch by Walling explaining the grouping of plants, and the recommendation of reading matter.<sup>4</sup> It would have been typical of Walling to come and walk around the garden and make a few suggestions. She is remembered by some clients as being 'rather high and mighty'.<sup>5</sup>

Although not drawn to scale, if the 1892 plan is to be relied on, the main path ran directly opposite the Hall, with the Sundial in the centre of it, so it appears that Stones moved the path position three metres to the west. His photographs in 1946 show well-established low planting along a gravel path edged with stones. His work here is described by Anne

Latreille as 'old world, perhaps in response to the historic nature of the site'.<sup>6</sup> The farm diaries note the fact that the last step of the series was completed by Sir Edmund Herring and to quote Professor Carrick Chambers '... the step has not withstood the test of deluges and time ...'

## Plant lists & diaries

The availability of reference material for the Strathfieldsaye gardens is impressive. Melbourne University Archives looks after many cartons of photographs and documents that include invoices for early plant purchases:

- In 1872 a collection of named *Narcissus* cultivars
- In 1897 (from Brunnings & Sons, St Kilda Nurseries) 29 fruit trees and rhubarb and 60 gooseberries
- In 1897 (from William Adamson, Wholesale and Retail Seedsman, 414 Collins St, Melbourne) a collections of plants including roses, boronias, fuchsias and 18 *Juniperinus bermundiana*

Later documentation is copious and detailed. Clive Disher's wife, Doris, made plant lists and notes in an old exercise book during her visits to Strathfieldsaye. They include instructions given to gardener Fred Fiske in the 1930s and 1940s. The list of roses in 1933 is long, and by the 1940s the variety of plants listed exotic trees and shrubs, nut trees, fruit trees and native plants. The vegetable garden was extensive with many varieties grown in large numbers.<sup>7</sup>

Mrs Doris Disher also records much detail of work in the garden:

... planted phlox in long row near lawn 10.10.39 very small plants, also lithone and marigolds the same day.

... planted Fantasy Zinnias in round lawn bed 23 Oct. Zinnias, phlox and marigolds were all starting to bloom by the beginning of Jan ...

... 15.8.40 ... I have asked Mr Crowe to get 50 cabbage and 50 caulis so put them in bed with tomatoes. Put red beet in where lettuce are. Water sugar gum every day is needed.

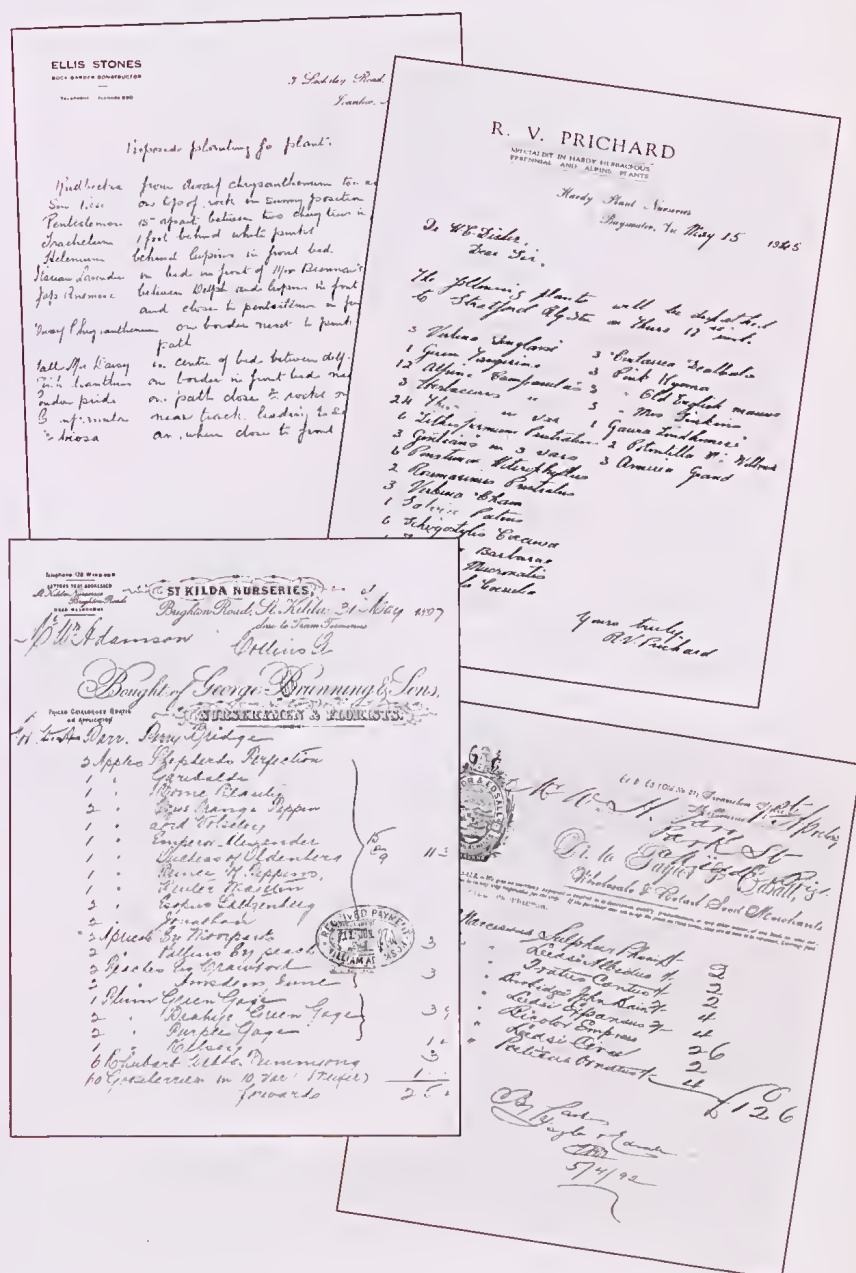
... Keep rockery bed near new gate well watered with water from tanks by watering can, also pot plants and green house.

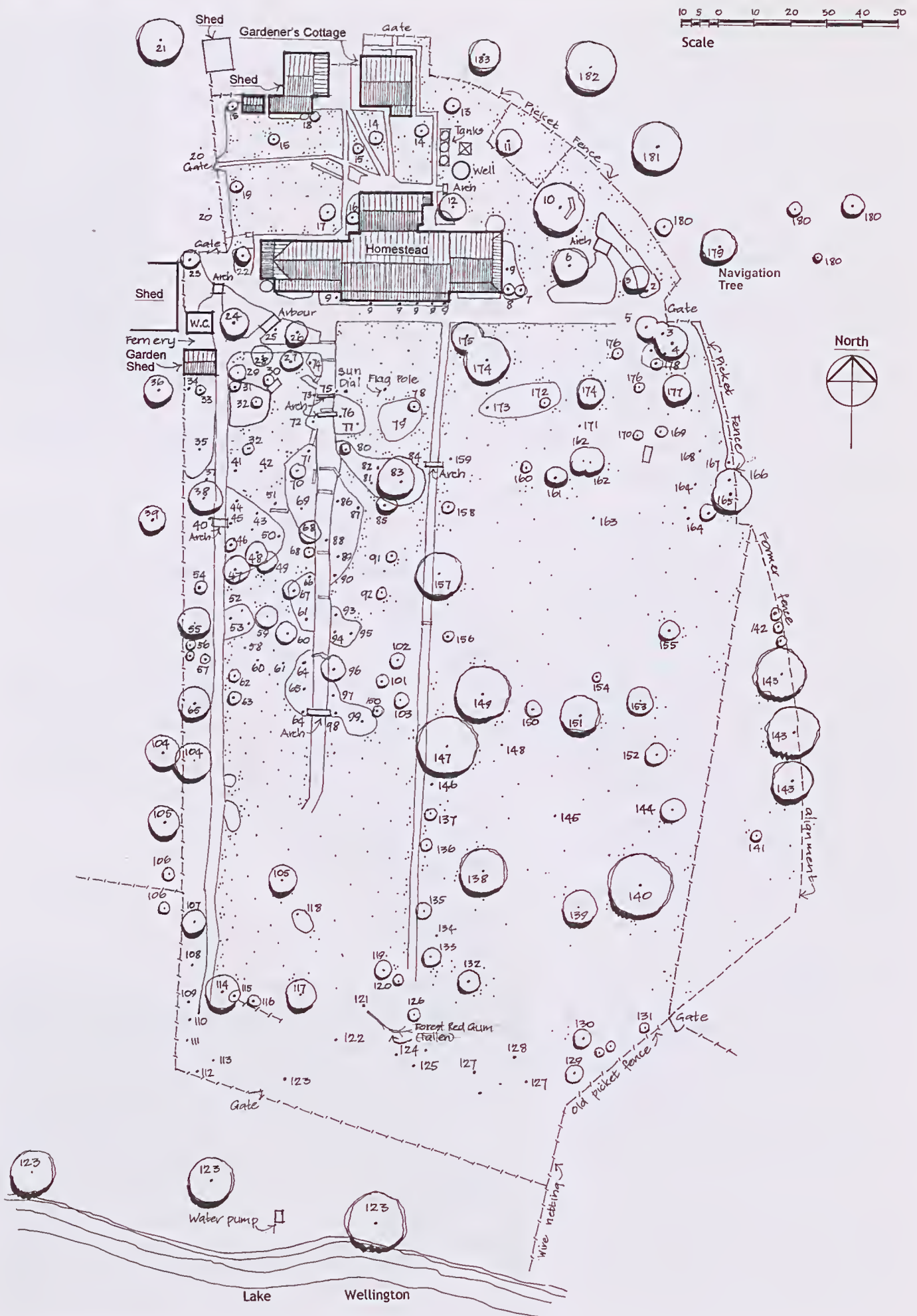
... Save seed from hollyhock. Sweet pea frame and plant peas.

In April 1980 the then Controller of Buildings at the University of Melbourne (M.A. Pawsey) advised Professor Chambers that he had found in the garden shed

... a number of books about gardening which we suspect from the names written in several of them, belonged to Mrs Doris Disher ... One ... is Mrs Beaton's *All about Gardening*, an 1871 Edition ... [the other] ... a homework book of John S. Disher, who was Clive Disher's uncle, dated 5th May 1868.

Below:  
A selection of invoices from contractors and nurserymen for services and plants for Strathfieldsaye.  
University of Melbourne Archives





# STRATHFIELD SAYE PLANT SURVEY

Prepared by John Hawker of Heritage Victoria • Drawn by: Pamela Jellie

5 September 2005

(Numbers relate to placement of plants on survey plan)

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 <i>Tecomaria capensis</i> (hedge)<br>South African Honeysuckle                  | 48 <i>Molus x purpurea</i> Purple Crabapple                             | 94 <i>Elaeagnus pungens</i> 'Variegata'  | 141 <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> Italian Cypress                               |
| 2 <i>Eunymus japonicus</i><br>Japanese Spindle-bush                               | 49 <i>Acmena smithii</i> Lilly Pilly                                    | 95 <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> Serviceberry                                    | 142 <i>Ulmus procera</i> x6 (saplings) English Elm                              |
| 3 <i>Cedrus deodara</i> (dead) x2<br>Himalayan Cedar                              | 50 <i>Acca sellowiana</i> Feijoa  | 96 <i>Pyrus communis</i> cv. Pear  | 143 <i>Ulmus procera</i> English Elm  |
| 4 <i>Eucalyptus batryoides</i> Southern<br>Mahogany                               | 51 <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> (stump)<br>Forest Red Gum             | 97 <i>Caladendrum capense</i> Cape Chestnut                                      | 144 <i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Lutescens' Golden Elm                                  |
| 5 <i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Lutescens' Golden Elm                                      | 52 <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> x2 Rowan                                     | 98 <i>Vitis</i> cv. Ornamental Grapevine   | 145 <i>Pyrus communis</i> (stump) Pear  |
| 6 <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> Monterey Cypress                                    | 53 <i>Malus x purpurea</i> Purple Crabapple                             | 99 <i>Rosea banksiae</i> 'Lutea' Banksia Rose                                    | 146 <i>Prunus</i> cv. (stump)   |
| 7 <i>Caprosma repens</i> 'Picturata'<br>Variegated Mirror Bush                    | 54 <i>Pyrus communis</i> cv. x5 (stump regrowth)<br>Pear                | 100 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   | 147 <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>oxycarpa</i><br>'Raywood' Claret Ash |
| 8 <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Cherry Plum  | 55 <i>Quercus canariensis</i> Algerian Oak                              | 101 <i>Camellia japonica</i> cv.   | 148 <i>Pyrus communis</i> (stump) Pear  |
| 9 <i>Wisteria sinensis</i> x7 Chinese Wisteria                                    | 56 <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> x2 English<br>Hawthorn                     | 102 <i>Koeleria paniculata</i> Golden Rain Tree                                  | 149 <i>Quercus rubra</i> Northern Red Oak                                       |
| 10 <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> Monterey Cypress                                   | 57 <i>Eunymus europaeus</i><br>European Spindle-bush                    | 103 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   | 150 <i>Pyrus communis</i> cv. Pear  |
| 11 <i>Salix alba</i> var. <i>vitellina</i> Golden Willow                          | 58 <i>Prunus serotina</i> cv. Japanese Plum                             | 104 <i>Quercus robur</i> x2 English Oak  | 151 <i>Quercus palustris</i> Pin Oak  |
| 12 <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> Jacaranda   | 59 <i>Malus nigra</i> Black Mulberry                                    | 105 <i>Ulmus x hollandica</i> x2 Dutch Elm                                       | 152 <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>oxycarpa</i><br>'Raywood' Claret Ash |
| 13 <i>Juglans regia</i> (dead) Walnut   | 60 <i>Malus x purpurea</i> x2 Purple Crabapple                          | 106 <i>Ulmus x hollandica</i> x2 Dutch Elm                                       | 153 <i>Quercus canariensis</i> x <i>Q. robur</i> Hybrid Oak                     |
| 14 <i>Citrus x aurantium</i> cv. x2 Orange  | 61 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   | 107 <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> Monterey Cypress                                 | 154 <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> (stump regrowth)<br>Chinese Elm                     |
| 15 <i>Citrus x limon</i> cv. x3 Lemon   | 62 <i>Prunus persica</i> cv. Peach                                      | 108 <i>Chamaecytisus polymensis</i> Tree Lucerne                                 | 155 <i>Crataegus</i> 'Smithiana'<br>Red Mexican Hawthorn                        |
| 16 <i>Prunus persica</i> cv. Peach  | 63 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   | 109 <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> Italian Cypress                                | 156 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple  |
| 17 <i>Citrus x aurantium</i> cv. Grapefruit                                       | 64 <i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i> cv. x2<br>Japanese Flowering Quince      | 110 <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> subsp. <i>globulus</i><br>Blue Gum                | 157 <i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Pendula' Horizontal Elm                                |
| 18 <i>Cordyline stricta</i> Slender Palm Lily                                     | 65 <i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> Privet                                 | 111 <i>Prunus persica</i> cv. Peach  | 158 <i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>europaea</i> Olive                           |
| 19 <i>Juglans regia</i> Walnut  | 66 <i>Spiraea thunbergii</i> Spiraea                                    | 112 <i>Caprosma repens</i> Mirror Bush   | 159 <i>Betula pendula</i> (stump) Silver Birch                                  |
| 20 <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>oxycarpa</i><br>'Raywood' x2 Claret Ash | 67 <i>Malus x purpurea</i> Purple Crabapple                             | 113 <i>Prunus armeniaca</i> cv. Apricot  | 160 <i>Acmena smithii</i> Lilly Pilly   |
| 21 <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> Forest Red Gum                                  | 68 <i>Betula pendula</i> x2 (dead) Silver Birch                         | 114 <i>Cambretum cafrum</i> South African Willow                                 | 161 <i>Waterhousea floribunda</i><br>Weeping Lilly Pilly                        |
| 22 <i>Erythrina x bidwillii</i> 'Blakei'<br>Hybrid Coral tree                     | 69 <i>Camellia japonica</i> Camellia                                    | 115 <i>Myoporum insulare</i> Baobab  | 162 <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> x2 Blackwood                                      |
| 23 <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> Magenta Cherry                                     | 70 <i>Crataegus</i> sp. Hawthorn  | 116 <i>Baeia amherstiana</i>   | 163 <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> Crepe Myrtle                                    |
| 24 <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Chinese Elm  | 71 <i>Nerium oleander</i> Oleander                                      | 117 <i>Quercus</i> 'Macedan'   | 164 <i>Exocarpus cupressiformis</i> x4<br>Cherry Ballart                        |
| 25 <i>Wisteria sinensis</i> Chinese Wisteria                                      | 72 <i>Spiraea thunbergii</i> Spiraea                                    | 118 <i>Cydania oblonga</i> (clump) Quince  | 165 <i>Eucalyptus batryoides</i><br>Southern Mahogany                           |
| 26 <i>Cotoneaster glaucocephalus</i> f. <i>serotinus</i><br>Late Cotoneaster      | 73 <i>Rosa</i> cv. Rose   | 119 <i>Melia azadirachta</i> White Cedar   | 166 <i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i><br>Weeping She-oak                        |
| 27 <i>Platanus orientalis</i> Bookleaf Cypress                                    | 74 <i>Strelitzia reginae</i> Bird-of-Paradise                           | 120 <i>Ficus carica</i> Fig  | 167 <i>Corymbium maculatum</i> Spotted Gum                                      |
| 28 <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> Magenta Cherry                                     | 75 <i>Rasmorinus officinalis</i> Rosemary                               | 121 <i>Nerium oleander</i> Oleander  | 168 <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>oxycarpa</i><br>'Raywood' Claret Ash |
| 29 <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Atropurpurea'<br>Bronze-leaved Cherry Plum           | 76 <i>Rosa</i> cv. Rose   | 122 <i>Cambretum cafrum</i> South African Willow                                 | 169 <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> subsp. <i>globulus</i><br>Blue Gum               |
| 30 <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> Italian Cypress                                  | 77 <i>Rosa laevigata</i> Chinese Rose                                   | 123 <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> x4<br>Forest Red Gum                          | 170 <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> (dead) Blackwood                                  |
| 31 <i>Morus alba</i> White Mulberry   | 78 <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Cherry Plum                                 | 124 <i>Arundo donax</i> 'Variegata'<br>Variegated Giant Reed                     | 171 <i>Prunus dulcis</i> cv. Almond   |
| 32 <i>Morus nigra</i> x2 Black Mulberry   | 79 <i>Betula pendula</i> (stump) Silver Birch                           | 125 <i>Quercus robur</i> English Oak   | 172 <i>Brochytan populneus</i> Kurrajong  |
| 33 <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> Serviceberry                                     | 80 <i>Ochna serrulata</i> Mickey Mouse Plant                            | 126 <i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>europaea</i> Olive                            | 173 <i>Cestrum porquii</i> Willow-leaved Jessamine                              |
| 34 <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> English Hawthorn                                     | 81 <i>Psidium littorale</i> var. <i>longipes</i><br>Strawberry Guava    | 127 <i>Eucalyptus batryoides</i> x2<br>Southern Mahogany                         | 174 <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> x2 Blackwood                                      |
| 35 <i>Prunus</i> 'Pollardii'  | 82 <i>Choenomeles cathayensis</i>                                       | 128 <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> 'Aurea'<br>Golden Cypress (lost in 3/2/05 storm) | 175 <i>Laurus nobilis</i> Bay Laurel  |
| 36 <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> Monterey Cypress                                   | 83 <i>Caladendrum capense</i><br>Cape Chestnut                          | 129 <i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Lutescens' Golden Elm                                   | 176 <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i><br>Sweet Pittosporum                           |
| 37 <i>Pyrus communis</i> cv. Pear   | 84 <i>Acmena smithii</i> Lilly Pilly                                    | 130 <i>Acacia meunsii</i> Black Wattle   | 177 <i>Eucalyptus batryoides</i><br>Southern Mahogany                           |
| 38 <i>Cupressus glabra</i> Smooth Arizona Cypress                                 | 85 <i>Agathis robusta</i> Queensland Kauri                              | 131 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   | 178 <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> x3 Blackwood                                      |
| 39 <i>Pinus halepensis</i> Aleppo Pine  | 86 <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> Bracteate<br>Honey Myrtle                | 132 <i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Lutescens' Golden Elm                                   | 179 <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> Forest Red Gum                               |
| 40 <i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i><br>Winter Honeysuckle                           | 87 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   | 133 <i>Ulmus x hollandica</i> Dutch Elm  | 180 <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> x4<br>Forest Red Gum                         |
| 41 <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> Californian Privet                                | 88 <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Atropurpurea'<br>Bronze-leaved Cherry Plum | 134 <i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i><br>Washington Thorn                             | 181 <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> Forest Red Gum                               |
| 42 <i>Macadamia integrifolia</i> Macadamia Nut                                    | 89 <i>Callistemon rigidus</i><br>Stiff-leaved Bottlebrush               | 135 <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Cherry Plum   | 182 <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> Monterey Cypress                                |
| 43 <i>Betula pendula</i> (dead) Silver Birch                                      | 90 <i>Eunymus japonicus</i> 'Medio-picta'                               | 136 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   | 183 <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> Yellow Box                                     |
| 44 <i>Camellia sasanqua</i> cv. (dead)  | 91 <i>Spiraea thunbergii</i> Spiraea                                    | 137 <i>Malus</i> cv. Apple   |   |
| 45 <i>Mespilus germanica</i> Medlar   | 92 <i>Molus</i> cv. Apple   | 138 <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> 'Horizontalis<br>Aurea'<br>Golden Cypress        |   |
| 46 <i>Punica granatum</i> Pomegranate   | 93 <i>Metrosideros excelsa</i><br>New Zealand Christmas Tree            | 139 <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>oxycarpa</i><br>'Raywood' Claret Ash  |   |
| 47 <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Nigra'<br>Purple-leaved Cherry Plum                  |   | 140 <i>Eucalyptus batryoides</i> Southern<br>Mahogany                            |   |



From the homestead verandah, looking south-east into the garden 2005.  
Photo: Nina Crone

## Garden plans

In March 1979 the University of Melbourne's Buildings Department drew up a detailed plan of the garden which included botanical identification of most plants. Drawn on a grid pattern on a scale of 1:250 this is a most helpful record of what plants were contained in the garden before deterioration of some of the beds.<sup>8</sup>

Meredith Fletcher's *Strathfieldsaye: A History and a Guide* celebrated the 150th anniversary of the property in 1992 and Gary Swinton drew up a plan of the garden while

Vince and Colleen Hurley surveyed the garden, prepared the plan and identified the species.<sup>9</sup>

When the Australian Landscape Trust assumed custodianship a new survey was prepared in 2004<sup>10</sup> using modern technology to place each item accurately on the plan which includes buildings, land forms, trees, structures, path edges, fences and tree stumps from an earlier period. This accurate, detailed survey allows valuable comparisons when overlaid on the older plans and it will immeasurably assist in deciding what to replace or restore.

## Plants 1979, 1992 & 2004

The collection of lead labels found in the Tool Shed includes 88 species and of these 52 species are no longer present in the garden. The 1979 plan has 107 species marked. Notable differences show 13 *Betula alba* (still alive), large beds of iris and kniphofia, many fruit trees, rhubarb and asparagus beds, and many smaller ornamental trees present in the gardens beds. Only seven roses are marked.

In the plan drawn by Gary R.R. Swinton in July 1992, Vince and Colleen Hurley identified 117 species in the garden. Of these, only 78 have survived to be listed in the 2004 survey.

It should be noted that the 1979 and the 1992 surveys were probably more concerned with recording the main plants of interest in the garden and not necessarily every single plant contained therein. Quite often botanical nomenclature changed over the years listing the same plants under different names, and the use of common names made it difficult to be accurate in identification. Some incorrect spelling too has at times obscured the identity of the plant. But generally the comparisons are clear, showing the larger trees as the main skeleton of the garden.

It is a fascinating exercise to imagine the changes in certain areas which featured such plants as *Spiraea thunbergii*, a cistus, *Brachychiton populneus*, escallonias, 2 crabapples, 2 silver birch, cotoneaster, 2 guelder rose, camellia and a barberry all in one garden bed. Indeed it is not hard to picture the garden as a mass of flowering species of trees and bushes flanked by large groups of iris, kniphofias, bulbs and groundcovers.

## PLANTS THAT HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE GARDEN LIST BETWEEN 1992 & 2004

<i>Abutilon</i> sp.	<i>Cyphomandra betacea</i>
<i>Acer palmatum</i>	<i>Cytisus</i> sp.
<i>Aucuba japonica</i>	<i>Escallonia</i> sp.
<i>Berberis</i> sp.	<i>Acmena smithii</i>
<i>Betula alba</i> (stumps)	<i>Fatsia japonica</i>
<i>Callistemon salignus</i>	<i>Acca sellowiana</i>
<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	<i>Forsythia</i> sp.
<i>Cassia</i> sp.	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
<i>Ceratostigma willmottianum</i>	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	<i>Prunus</i> cv. 'Nectarine'
<i>Cistus purpureus</i>	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	<i>Viburnum opulus roseum</i>
<i>Cupressus funebris</i>	



## Photographs, artifacts & found objects

Other valuable material for research is the large collection of photographs – from the Disher family album, from historical societies, from Ellis Stones and from the Neumann family. Both Jack Neumann and his son Barry were farm managers at Strathfieldsaye and Barry's wife, Lois, has an album given by her family to Dr Disher as a Christmas present in 1971.

Susan Thompson reports how a recent clearing of the Old Fruit Shed revealed several items of interest to the history of the garden. Gardening tools of many shapes and sizes were found. A wooden box of 99 lead plant labels (145mm x 6mm) printed with the letters pressed into the surface then filled with white paint has provided another source of plant names.<sup>11</sup>

## A garden of memories

Many people have clear and fond memories of the garden over the last decades and can recall aspects of plant groupings, garden structures and the moods and atmosphere of the Strathfieldsaye gardens. These memories are an essential part of the garden's history. They set it apart from other gardens. Meredith Fletcher believes that to visit the garden is 'as instructive as reading a series of documents about how people lived and worked.'<sup>12</sup>

Susan Thompson felt that Lois Neumann's description of Dr Disher's generosity with flowers and produce from the property was inspirational. Lois said it was 'a giving garden' with Dr Disher always supplying flowers to the church and baskets of fruit and vegetables to many members of the community.

Above:  
Interior of the old fruit  
shed 2005.  
*Photo: Susan Thompson*

Below upper left:  
Gardening tools found in the  
old fruit shed 2004.  
*Photo: Susan Thompson*

Below lower left:  
Exterior old fruit shed 2005.  
*Photo: Susan Thompson*

Below right:  
Front verandah of  
homestead.  
*Melbourne University Archives*





Above:  
2005, Susan Thompson  
uncovers the slab on which  
the cannon from the SS  
Clonmel originally stood.  
Photo: Richard Thompson



Above right:  
Volunteers with 'Hands on  
Heritage' assist in garden  
work 2005.  
Photo: Susan Thompson

Below:  
Denis O'Byrne, gardener  
at Strathfieldsaye from  
1956 to 1982.  
University of Melbourne Archives

Melbourne architect Craig Rossetti, who grew up in Gippsland, recalls how Dr Disher would take him down the path from the homestead to the enormous vegetable garden and carefully explain the importance of soil, drainage and aspect in getting a good crop.

After the death in 1983 of Denis O'Byrne who had been the gardener at Strathfieldsaye from 1956 to 1982, Glenice Crane, the manager's wife, attempted to keep the garden flowering and 'in good order' and 'provided devoted attention to the homestead and to visitors' who remember a garden 'full of roses'. It was



Glenice who assisted Lady Woodward in planting the camellia to commemorate the 150th anniversary on 28th November 1992. Unfortunately *Camellia sasanqua* 'Hiro', planted opposite the front door of the homestead, did not survive, but the bronze plaque still records the occasion.

## New custodians

By the time the Australian Landscape Trust took over the stewardship of the Strathfieldsaye Estate in September 2003, the homestead gardens had fallen into decline. Lack of water, intrusions of pests and little direction for maintenance had left the garden depleted of many smaller shrubs, while many of the larger trees were in an unhealthy state.

The ALT, a non-profit organisation 'is committed to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. It works closely with rural communities to address the sustainable use of degraded land and the conservation of species . . . through the dissemination of information, the provision of education, or the carrying on of research.' Today the Strathfieldsaye property is the home of ALT's major Red Gum Plains Restoration Project and other agricultural and environmental activities.

Susan Thompson chair of the Strathfieldsaye Estate Garden Committee, set up in late 2003 to advise on the conservation and management of the garden, has set out to the task ahead:



'In the final Conservation Plan essential tasks for the restoration of the garden will be listed in order of priority, costing for each project will be estimated and a time-line detailing each development will be drawn up so that a staged program can be planned.'

These lists include:

- Tree management – arboriculture/tree surgery, disease control and future re-planting of species
- Restoration of structures – fences, arbours and garden sheds
- Garden restoration – establishment of garden beds, soil analysis, re-drawing of design with reference to older plans and maintenance, planning of gardens to the north of the homestead, re-establishment of old varieties of fruit trees and propagation of existing plant material
- Restoration of Ellis Stones's pathway and steps
- Re-surfacing of gravel paths and driveway
- Weed eradication
- Pest eradication
- Establishment of a maintenance plan to include – weeding and weed control, mowing and lawn care, fertilising, watering, mulching and pruning
- Installation of a watering system
- Implementation of 'Safety in the Garden' guidelines.

- Establishment of projects for fund-raising
- Financial planning to employ a dedicated gardener.

However Susan Thompson emphasises that:

In the planning process a most important factor in re-creating a garden is the atmosphere and character described by people who remember, in Strathfieldsaye's case, the shaded 'secret' pathways across and down the garden. Many oral descriptions of large collections of roses and irises abound, and feelings of trees arching over pathways are remembered.



Above left:  
Wire Vine (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*.) completely covered the wisteria arbour until cleared away by 'Hands on Heritage' volunteers.

Above:  
'Hands on Heritage' volunteers got to work in 2005.  
Photo: Susan Thompson

Below:  
The homestead, garden arches and the sundial in 2005.  
Photo: Nino Crone

Right:  
Memories of plant grouping.  
Photo from the Neumann Album  
given to Dr Disher in 1971.

Far right:  
Flowers for the church  
and vegetables for the  
community.  
Photo from the Neumann Album



Below:  
Dr Disher and a young friend  
on the way to inspect the  
vegetables.  
Photo from the Neumann Album

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Meredith Fletcher, *Strathfieldsaye: A History and a Guide*, The Centre for Gippsland Studies, in association with the University of Melbourne, 1992. p.6.

<sup>2</sup> Australian Heritage Database: Darien Cassidy, *Strathfieldsaye: A Historic Structures Report*, 1983.

<sup>3</sup> Cited in Meredith Fletcher, op. cit. p.47.

<sup>4</sup> Susan Thompson, *A Conservation Report for the Homestead Gardens at Strathfieldsaye Estate*, February 2005, Appendix 12.

<sup>5</sup> Anne Latreille, *The Natural Garden*, Viking O'Neil, 1990. p.67.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.* p.68.

<sup>7</sup> Susan Thompson, op. cit., Appendix 2.

<sup>8</sup> 'Strathfieldsaye Homestead Garden Layout' 16.3.1979, drawn up by the University of Melbourne Buildings Department. See Susan Thompson, op. cit. Appendix 4.

<sup>9</sup> Susan Thompson, op. cit. Appendix 5.

<sup>10</sup> 'Strathfieldsaye Homestead Garden Survey' by Kluge Jackson Consultants Pty Ltd 2004 [in Susan Thompson, op. cit. Appendix 9].

<sup>11</sup> Susan Thompson, op. cit. Appendix 3.

<sup>12</sup> Meredith Fletcher, op. cit. p.3.

<sup>13</sup> Mission statement of the Australian Landscape Trust.

<sup>14</sup> Susan Thompson, op. cit. p.30

## Acknowledgements

The cheerful assistance of Linda Flanner, Meredith Fletcher, John Hawker, Ruth Henshall, Pamela Jellie, Kate Simpson and Richard Thompson in the preparation of this article is gratefully acknowledged.

**Susan Thompson** is an artist, but her business career lies in horticulture. She established 'Coora Cottage Herbs', a wholesale nursery from 1973 to 1985 on the Mornington Peninsula and was Landscape Consultant at 'Heide Park and Art Gallery' at Bulleen from 1987 to 1993. There she was in charge of the restoration of Sunday Reed's kitchen garden. After moving to East Gippsland in 1995 Susan taught classes in Landscape Design and set up 'Designwright' in partnership with Margaret Barton.

**John Hawker** is Horticulturist with Heritage Victoria. He identifies significant trees, plants and gardens throughout Victoria, serves on many garden committees including the Council of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and the Garden Committee of the National Trust (Victoria) and is a keen member of the Conifer Society

The production of this article has been subsidised by the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society. The AGHS was formed in 1980 to bring together people with an interest in the various aspects of garden history and to promote research into and preservation of historic gardens. Information about the Society and its activities can be found on [www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au) or by telephoning (03) 9650 5043 or Toll Free 1800 678 446.



# A Charter for Tree Management

BY WARWICK MAYNE-WILSON

A forum on tree management was held in Sydney on 19-20 May 2005 to consider how the processes for properly managing urban trees could be formulated into a 'tree charter' - something akin to the Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter for the assessment and conservation of heritage items and places. The need for such a charter became apparent during the heated public debate and ensuing court case that arose as a consequence of the decision by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, to remove a number of fig trees planted during the mid-19th century along Hospital Road on the western edge of the Domain.

The principal organisers of the forum were a handful of dedicated members from the NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects led by Ingrid Mather of Mather & Associates, supported by a wide range of other professionals and organizations interested in the better management of mature trees. These included the National Trust, the Botanic Gardens Trust, the National Arborists Association, the Local Government Trees Resource Association, the NSW Heritage Office and AGHS (through Colleen Morris and Stuart Read), and the Australian Institute of Horticulture.

## Speakers & substance

Tree management was approached from a very wide spectrum. Individual connexions with significant trees were vividly depicted by *Peter Solness* using photographs from his book *Tree Stories*<sup>1</sup>. *James Weirick*, Professor of Landscape Architecture at University of New South Wales, encouraged trees to be seen as an integral part of the whole landscape in which their important design role and 'fitness of purpose'



over time should be properly understood. *Meredith Walker*, Heritage Consultant of Heritage Futures, noted that trees can have both natural and cultural values which may overlap or intertwine.

As the forum progressed, it became evident that the context and history of tree plantings needed to be well-researched and understood. Another vital element was to identify and respect people's attachment to trees, and to have conversations with the community on issues such as proposed tree removal or tree replacement.

*Richard Wood*, representing Landcom NSW, described some of the issues faced by developers in choosing appropriate species (native and exotic) to achieve sustainability as well as the challenges of managing them during the early stages of site development. *Ian Innes*, Director of Assets at the Centennial

Victoria Park, Dubbo  
c. 1995 showing trees  
where there was a need  
for careful management.  
Photo: Warwick Mayne-Wilson



Victoria Park, Dubbo  
c. 1995 where the trees  
were well maintained to  
enhance a major pathway  
through the gardens.  
Photo: Warwick Mayne-Wilson

Park and Moore Park Trust, described the problems of managing mature to senescent trees of a limited palette and an even age in a heritage place like Centennial Park. He saw landscape as an 'ensemble' where there was a relationship between it and the trees within it, and he reminded his audience that trees behaved quite differently within a cultural or urban landscape where conditions varied considerably from those in their natural habitat. He also saw a need to balance heritage values with people's recreational needs, as well as to plan for the future. A master plan for trees was needed to deal with difficulties involved in replacing many trees all at the same time.

The Head of Burnley College, Victoria, *Dr. Greg Moore*, described the many problems in the physiology of declining trees, and stressed the need for early preventive action, avoidance of interference with their root and branch systems, and the need for more research and for managers to keep abreast of it. *Robert Kerr* of Willoughby Council noted that local government was a key player in tree management and he depicted the many problems resulting from both the range of service or utility providers and from the pressure for more intensive development. Tree preservation orders had many problems and he tended to favour a State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP) for the protection and management of urban trees.

*Ron Barnes*, a risk management consultant, dealt with the complex issues of liability and better risk management, while *Ingrid Mather*, Principal of Mather & Associates (Sydney) discussed the varying criteria used in a range of countries for evaluating the significance of trees. Mather advised that the United Kingdom had a number of Tree Registers – most used size as the criteria for registration but underlying historic or associating criteria were also referred to. A number of active organisations also had Champion Tree Registers and Veteran Tree Registers. 'English Nature' outlined value criteria which appeared to be used by most of the other organizations. Mather then focussed on the Burra Charter and the Australian Natural Heritage Charter as possibly the documents that needed to be reviewed in greater depth to provide part of the basis for the future theoretical basis for the proposed Tree Charter.

On the second day, *Judy Fakes* (Arboricultural Teacher, Ryde College of TAFE), *Karen Sweeney* (Arborist, Sydney City Council), *Chris Williams* (visiting Landscape Architect from New Zealand), and *Dr Karen Smith* (Street Tree Planner, City of Hobsons Bay, Victoria) dealt with the physiological, practical, and community issues they had faced in urban tree management, illustrating them with telling examples. *Stuart Read*, Landscape Officer from the NSW Heritage Office said Heritage Charters have relevance to managing urban trees in their basic approach, which is to define the tree(s)' significance clearly first, which then informs management policies to conserve that significance. The Burra and the Natural Heritage Charters both do this, and it is a very similar process (albeit with differing language) to that of preparing a management plan for a park.

## Outcomes

It was agreed that a process based on researching and identifying information (history, context, interests), analysing this and assessing values, taking into account management issues, setting objectives (including the desired future condition), deciding on management and conservation processes and on good arborial practices, writing a management plan and then

implementing, monitoring and reviewing it over time, were the key stages in the process. Talking with the community, involving it, learning of its attachments, and educating it over time were key issues.

Of particular importance was the need to prepare plans for the management of old trees, and to sustain those in natural areas, as well as bushland remnants. But planning should also aim for sustainability of trees in urban areas and the creation of a legacy for the future – including the improvement of the natural environment. Policy and management issues should address all issues: values, health, safety, fire, etc., and in so doing involve and educate people.

The Forum was ably chaired by *Alistair Hay* (formerly of the Sydney Botanic Gardens), while *Lorraine Cairnes*, as Moderator, facilitated the discussion sessions, edging the speakers and audience to some basic conclusions.

At the final session it was decided that:

- the Conference Organising Committee should continue, desirably with the NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects taking over its management.
- additional members (a local government officer and a planner) should be added to the Committee to ensure the full range of skills was represented.
- a framework for the proposed Charter be prepared, and feedback sought from interested people.
- definitions of key words or phrases used in tree management should be provided (to ensure a common understanding among the wide range of professionals involved in various aspects of tree management). These could be derived from existing charters with additional terms added as needed.
- the 'process' of tree management should be spelt out and offered for comment. It should cover the sequence of stages involved in making decisions about significant trees, especially those in urban areas approaching senescence.



- The proceedings (papers) of the forum will be published and details can be obtained from Ingrid Mather on (02) 9564 1186.

Careful tree management c. 1995 is apparent in this park in Bathurst.  
Photo: Warwick Mayne-Wilson.

*Warwick Mayne-Wilson is a Sydney conservation landscape architect with a particular interest in the role of trees in urban areas and the preservation of trees in cultural landscapes. His report was first published in the Newsletter of the Sydney and Northern NSW Branch of AGHS whose permission to reprint it is acknowledged.*

## Endnote

<sup>1</sup> Peter Solness, 1999 *Tree Stories*, Chapter & Verse Publishers, Sydney.

## CORRIGENDUM

In the last issue of journal, Vol.17, No.1, July/August 2005, 'On the Move' p.11, the report on the post-conference tour incorrectly referred to Ellensville as the garden of Mrs Rolf Boldrewood. It was the home of Ellen Foreman, who was Mrs Boldrewood's godmother. Mrs Boldrewood lived at nearby Denham Court. [See Pacita Alexander, 'Your Affectionate Child', in *Australian Garden History*, Vol.16, No. 3, November/December 2004/January 2005, pp 16-18]

# Items of Interest

## WELL DESERVED ACCOLADES

Congratulations to the Society's first Patron, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, who was named Victorian of the Year, a most appropriate choice for the Garden State and also to long-standing member of AGHS, Jocelyn Newman, who received an AO in the Queen's Birthday Honour List.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Garden History Society Inc. will be held at 8.30am on Saturday 15 October 2005 in the Novotel Langley Hotel, 221 Adelaide Terrace, Perth..

There will be one vacancy on the National Management Committee this year. If nominations exceed the number of vacancies, ballot papers will be enclosed in this Journal.

## AUCTION OF GARDEN ORNAMENTS

AGHS members are invited to beautiful Comfort Hill on the Hume Highway at Sutton Forest (1.6km north of the Illawarra Highway) for the largest auction of garden ornaments in the history of the Southern Highlands – over 200 items including monumental urns, statues, and carvings in marble and cast iron, furniture, massive 18th century wooden doors and iron gates. On view Saturday 24th September 10am-5pm and Sunday 25th September 10am-1pm. The auction begins at 1pm on Sunday 25. For enquiries and catalogues phone (02) 9326 1588 or [info@shapiroauctioneers.com.au](mailto:info@shapiroauctioneers.com.au)



## VALE: BARNEY HUTTON

All members will be saddened by the death of Barney Hutton a founding member of the Society who contributed to conferences, wrote inspiring articles for newsletters and journals and did notable research on the Ballarat nurseryman, Thomas Lang. A tribute to to Barney will appear in the next journal.

## THANK YOU PACKERS

This time our thanks go to Beryl Black, Mary Chapman, Di Ellerton (back from Europe), Fran Faul, Philip Goode, Jane Johnson, Beverley and John Joyce, Ann Miller, Sandi Pullman, Susan Reidy, Georgina Whitehead and Kathy Wright. As always your work was greatly appreciated.

## SPRING BLOSSOMS AT BUDDHIST RETREAT

The Galston District Garden Club will open the garden for charity on Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th and Monday 19th September, 2005, from 9.30am to 4.30pm, entry \$4.

The beautiful pink, white and red blossoms of more than 120 flowering peaches, symbols of spring, longevity and good fortune, put on an amazing display in the garden of the Golden Wheel Buddhist Community.

A golden statue of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, surrounded by orchids overlooks the garden and a pond with huge Koi carp. Around the pond are large pots with a variety of plants, especially citrus - oranges, lemons, mandarins, cumquats and even citron *Citrus medica* ('Buddha's Hand').

There is much more - the white mulberry 'Shahtoot', fruiting olives, camellias, bonsai, succulents, cactus, roses and azaleas. A special tree in the garden is the Bodhi Tree - *Ficus religiosa*, the tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment.

Enquiries (02) 9653 1036 or (02) 9653 1864, or visit the website [www.geocities.com/galstongarden](http://www.geocities.com/galstongarden)

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Over the next months the Australian Garden History Society will celebrate its 25th anniversary in various ways. A commemorative publication will be distributed to all AGHS members in February and in April there will be a commemorative tree planting at the Cruden Farm, the home of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch the first chairman of the Society and later its first patron.

# Diary Dates

## SEPTEMBER

### Thursday 22

#### South Yarra, Victoria

Sara Hardy speaks on her book *The Unusual Life of Edna Walling*, 10 for 10.30am in Mueller Hall, RBG Melbourne. Admission: AGHS members \$15, others \$20.

### Sunday 25

#### South Australia, Stirling

Garden visits: 2pm 'Yultewirra' and 3.30pm 'Narrinyeri'. Cost \$5. RSVP Lyn Hillier on 8339 1033 by 18 September.

## OCTOBER

### Saturday 1

#### South Australia, Adelaide

10am-noon Lecture Tour 'Diversity of Botanical Art' at Art Gallery. Contact Di Wilkins on 0417 824 058.

#### Victoria, Birregurra

Working Bee at Turkeith. Contact: Helen Page (03) 9397 2260.

### Saturday 8

#### Hahndorf, South Australia

Working Bee at 'The Cedars' 10am-4pm. Contact Di Wilkins on 0417 824 058.

#### Abbotsford, Victoria

2.30pm Tour of St Heliers Abbotsford Convent Gardens led by Nigel Lewis & Pamela Jellie.

### Friday 14 to Sunday 16

#### Perth

Annual National Conference: 'From Sea to Scarp' at the Novotel Langley Hotel in Adelaide Terrace.

## NOVEMBER

### Date TBA

#### ACT/Monaro/Riverina

Picnic at Gundaroo. Contact: Brian Voce by e-mail bvoce@ozemail.com.au

### Saturday 5 & Sunday 6

Blue Mountains Heritage Garden Seminar *Rare Plants and Mountain Gardens* at Wentworth Falls School of Art, an AGHS/Australian Institute of Horticulture event. Each day: 10am-12.20pm talks followed by afternoon visits to gardens in the Blue Mountains. Illustrated talks on the Blue Mountains heritage, cemeteries, Paul Sorensen, rare plants and the Wollemi Pine. Weekend or single day tickets available. For brochure contact Silas Clifford-Smith on (02) 9569 3417 (evenings) or e-mail scliff@bigpond.net.au

### Sunday 6

#### Adelaide, South Australia

Garden visits: 2pm 'Gum Bank', Charleston and afternoon tea at Rosie's Barn, Woodside. Cost \$6 RSVP Lyn Hillier on 8339 1033 by 28 October.

### Saturday 12 & Sunday 13

#### Bairnsdale Victoria

Weekend tour 'Gardens in Spring Landscapes' – the lakes and hills of East Gippsland.

### Sunday 13

#### Bowral, Southern Highlands

Stuart Read speaks on 'Managing Spain's Historic Gardens' at 2pm in Annesley Ballroom, Westwood Drive. Contact: Elise Shepherd (02) 4861 3178.

### Saturday 19

#### South Yarra, Victoria

Stuart Read speaks on 'Managing Spain's Historic Gardens' at 3.00 for 3.30pm in Mueller Hall, Herbarium, RBG. Admission AGHS members \$15, others \$20.

### Wednesday 23

#### Burradoo, Southern Highlands

Christmas Party at Yokefleet, Osborne Rd, Burradoo. Contact: Elise Shepherd (02) 4861 3178.

### Saturday 26

#### Coochiemudlo, Queensland

Christmas Event at home of Carolyn Brammer. Contact: Wendy Lees on (07) 3289 0280 or e-mail tallowood@primus.com.au

## DECEMBER

### Sunday 4

#### Bungendore, ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch

Christmas Party at Bill and Philippa Kelly's historic home.

#### Tasmania, Hobart

Christmas Function at Newtown House. Contact: Ivan Saltmarsh via e-mail ivanof@bigpond.com

#### Western Australia

Christmas Function in Queens Gardens. Contact: Sue Monger (08) 9384 1575.

#### Norton Summit, South Australia

4-7pm Christmas Drinks at Andrew & Carolyn Quixley's home. Cost \$10 and please bring a plate of food. RSVP Lyn Hillier on 8339 1033 by 25 November.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Saturday 17 to Monday 19 September

The Galston District Garden Club will open the garden at the Buddhist Retreat for charity from 9.30am to 4.30pm, entry \$4. Enquiries (02) 965 301 or (02) 965 3 1864.

### Sunday 18 September

Brisbane, Queensland  
10am to 3pm 'Promenade in the Park: the City Botanic Gardens celebrates 150 years'. A free family fun day.

### Sunday 25 September

#### Sutton Forest, NSW

Auction of garden ornaments at Comfort Hill – on view Saturday 24th September 10am-5pm and Sunday 25th September 10am-1pm. The auction begins at 1pm on Sunday 25. For enquiries and catalogues phone (02) 9326 1588.

### Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 October

#### Melbourne

The 'Growing Friends' Plant Sale at RBG [Gate E – Melway 2L C2] from 10am to 4pm Saturday and from 10am to 3pm Sunday.

### Saturday 15 October to 6 November

#### Kalorama, Victoria

'Botanical Art at Kawarra' (Melway 120: B9) – 11am on 15 October Exhibition opening by Gwen Elliot AM. Enquiries (03) 9728 4256.

### Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 October

#### Young, NSW

'A Hilltops Weekend' – visit 6 Open Gardens, all with exhibitions and sales of art and craft, talks by garden personalities, regional wine and produce. For further details phone (02) 6383 3252 or (02) 6382 1530.

### Tuesday 25 October

#### Canberra

6pm in the Shine Dome at ANU – *The Silence of Mountains and the Music of the Sea* a lecture by Christopher Vernon on the landscape artistry of Marion Mahony Griffin. Bookings essential. Contact: Di Jay on (02) 6262 5933 or e-mail ceo@planning.org.au

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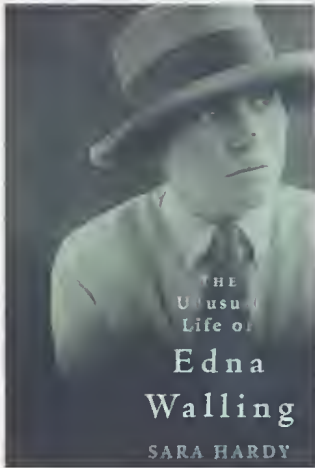
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# For the Bookshelf



## THE UNUSUAL LIFE OF EDNA WALLING

Sara Hardy  
Allen & Unwin (2005)  
ISBN 1 74114 229 6  
RRP: \$29.95

*Reviewed by Suzanne Hunt*

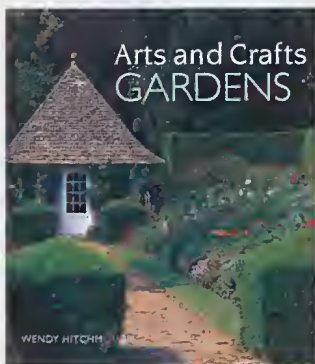
A rollicking good yarn? A girl's own adventure story? Or a historicised-factual account of one of the most extraordinary characters in our garden design history? Sarah Hardy's account of the unusual life and work of Edna Walling can be read, and enjoyed, on all these levels. The picture she paints of Edna – boyish, wearing well designed jodhpurs, boots and tweeds – is that of a gifted, determined individualist. It is fascinating to learn, for instance, about the circle that Edna travelled in. Most of the women were career oriented and the men writers, poets and artists. Not quite a 'Bloomsbury' set but certainly avant garde for the time.

Edna's passion for classical music and her generous support of the Red Cross reveal a softer side from the one we have traditionally associated her with. Pragmatic and hard working she may have been but she still had

time to 'smell the roses' and immerse herself in activities other than gardening. Her love of the Australian bush, talent as a writer and self-promoter are glaringly obvious and not concealed by Hardy. Warts and all do help to 'humanise' this larger than life persona. However, the lengthy discourse on whether or not Edna's sexual preference was for women is, I felt, a tad overdone. Did it for example influence her style of garden design, or anything else for that matter? This is not made clear and is a little distracting.

At times Hardy 'gets into the character' of Edna and her predilection for things English – tea times are jolly and references to those rascals from *The Wind in the Willows*, Badger and Mole, crop up giving the impression of a fairy story being played out in Bickleigh Vale.

I enjoyed the book. Painstaking oral research has rewarded the author with personal insights and anecdotes. Edna is no longer a two-dimensional figure, but struts around on the page as large as her life must have been. And we, the readers, are lucky to learn so much about her and can look at her work with an even greater appreciation. Hardy's book is a romp from start to finish and will delight those seeking to know more about Walling's life.



## ARTS AND CRAFTS GARDENS

Wendy Hitchmough  
V & A Publications (2005)  
ISBN 1 85177 4493  
RRP: \$45

*Reviewed by Nina Crone*

In an engaging essay with generous illustrations, Wendy Hitchmough extends her canvas beyond the English Arts and Crafts gardens of William Morris's Red House or Kelmscott and Gertrude Jekyll's Munstead Wood or Hestercombe.

She places the style solidly within the social and economic changes sweeping England as the formality of the Victorian age gave way to a more relaxed life embracing outdoor pastimes. Then she turns to the arts and crafts gardens and associated communities in other

countries: the Finnish National Romantic style evident in Hvittrask (1902), and the German contribution at Matildenhoe in Darmstadt (1904).

Elsewhere it was regional landscape that inspired the designers – the Lake District houses of Voysey, the 'Old Surrey' style of Lutyens, the Prairie style of Frank Lloyd Wright, and the Californian style of the Greenes in Pasadena. Reference is made rather than discussion given to the 'garden city' movement and the planned estates Hampstead Garden Suburb, Brentham Estate and Bourneville in England and Pullman and Oak Park in America.

*Arts and Crafts Gardens* leaves the reader wanting something more – an Australian reference. What of Bickleigh Vale or Castlecrag or Walter Butler or Desbrowe-Annear? That said, the book is a pleasurable read and the illustrations are to be savoured at leisure, again and again.